

**SEPTIC TANK PUMPERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
JULY 28, 2006 MEETING MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chairman Conrad Eckert called the Septic Tank Pumpers Advisory Committee meeting to order on July 28, 2006 at 12:15 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Conrad Eckert, Eckert's Services;
John Clark, Scenic City Enterprises;
Conrad Eckert, Eckert's Services;
Steve Kunkle, Montana Septic Service;
Wade Stout, Badger Pass Septic Service;
Don Heimbigner, Don's Septic Service;
Renai Hill, Montana DEQ

OTHERS PRESENT:

Roy Severin, Scenic City Enterprises;
Keith Kunkle, Montana Septic Service;
Nancy Stout, Badger Pass Septic Service;
Darrell Stankey - Montana DEQ;

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR APRIL 28, 2006 MEETING

Conrad Eckert asked for any changes to draft minutes. There were no comments or edits from the committee. A motion to approve the April 28, 2005 minutes was made and seconded. The motion carried and the April 28, 2005 minutes were approved as written.

COMMITTEE HOUSEKEEPING ITEMS:

1. Future meeting dates

The October 6, 2006 meeting date stands, however the meeting place in the Metcalf building has changed from room 111 on the 1st floor to room 35 in the basement.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Enforcement Update

A member of the Enforcement Section was not available to brief the committee. Renai Hill provided an update on the outcome of the civil action the Department took against Mark's Environmental Service (MES) and its owner and operator in Flathead County for violations of the Septage Disposal Laws.

2. STP Training Results

Renai Hill provided the committee the results of the evaluation of the STP conference held in Billings in May 2006. Only 7 Septic Pumpers and 1 Sanitarian attended the conference. Committee members discussed the number of septic pumpers in Eastern Montana and the comments made by the trainees.

3. Next STP Training Conference

The committee members agreed that due to the poor turnout the training session should be held once a year in Helena or Missoula. Renai Hill will provide several Friday dates in late January and early February 2007 and have a list of topics to vote on for the upcoming training conference at our next meeting. With advance notification John Clark advised the committee that he could request sponsorship again from the Portland Company to provide snacks for the training breaks. DEQ and or SPAC would need to send a thank you letter for their support.

4. Inspections at septic land application sites

Renai Hill stated that she has begun inspections at land application sites and hopes to eventually inspect all approved sites. She will brief the committee on her findings and trends at the sites.

5. SPAC member rules and procedures

Renai Hill asked the committee members present if they had reviewed the draft rules and procedures handed out at the last meeting and if they had any comments or additions. A copy was provided to the committee members to review and discuss. The committee members stated that the rules and procedures looked good but a few questions were asked. Item #8, what does gathering information mean? Does not mean the member must continuously call pumpers every week however, they must be available to pumpers in their areas and open to suggestion/complaints that must be brought to the committee meetings. During times when there is a pressing issue such as changes to Administrative Rules of Montana etc., committee members may be required to actively contact as many pumpers in their areas as possible. The committee requested that longevity be addressed and added to the rules and procedures. The term limit was discussed and will be added to the draft rules and procedures. SPAC committee members will serve a 6 year term. The term will begin on the date of the approval of the rules and upon appointment for all new members in the future. A notice will go out mid term letting other pumpers in that region know that a vacancy is opening. This will also give the new member the opportunity to sit in and become familiar with the current issues prior to taking over the position. The rules will be voted on for approval during the next meeting.

6. Getting SPAC information out

Renai Hill provided information on the new web page now available to the public and other pumpers on line. The web page has the SPAC committee members list, meeting minutes, meeting agendas, upcoming meeting dates/times, etc. Renai will send out information to all pumpers making them aware of the new site. As requested during the April 2006 meeting there is now a list of all septic pumpers on the Solid Waste web page.

8. Sanitarian Committee Member Vacancy

Ross Knapper, Gallatin City-County Health Department has left the state for a new position. Renai Hill will send a letter of the vacancy to all County Health Departments requesting a volunteer to fill the position.

9. Land Applying on State Lands

DNRC was not available to speak at the meeting however, Renai Hill provided information on land applying on State land. To use state lands for land application you will need the following

- * If the land is being leased to another party you will need the lessees written approval/certification,
- * DNRC's written approval/certification
- * County Sanitarian/Health Department's site inspection, written approval/certification
- * A fee for disposal may be assessed by DNRC.
- * A fee for a permit may be assessed by DNRC.

More information will be provided in the Solid Waste Newsletter.

7. Draft Septic Pumper Guide

Renai Hill handed out a draft copy of the Septic Pumper Guide for review. Any committee member's suggestion or comments can be sent to Renai at any time prior to our next meeting in October or bring them to the next meeting. The information in the guide is the Montana Septic Rules and Department forms broken down and simplified for pumper businesses.

8. Changing the Graywater definition in the ARM

Conrad Eckert asked where the definition of graywater came from and how to get the definition changed in the Montana Rules. Discussed the definition, licensed pumpers etc. as it pertains to the States definition of graywater. Darrell Stankey provided some information on state rules. Renai Hill will find out what action needs to be taken to get the definition changed.

9. Business Name on Pumper trucks

The following question was raised: Why DEQ does not require the business name and STP license number on pumper trucks that operate in the State. John Clark provided the following information; DOT regulates trucks above a certain weight limit and can require the business name on the trucks. Those that fall below a certain weight are not regulated by DOT, are not required to go over the scales, nor label their trucks. Committee members recommended adding labeling septic pumping trucks/equipment with the business name and STP license number to the Montana rules.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Confirm next meeting date

The next meeting will be held on October 6, 2006 in Room 35 of the Metcalf Building from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

2. Agenda items for next meeting

Voting on the SPAC rules and procedures

Training dates and topics for the 2007 STP conference

Enforcement update

Graywater definition in the ARM

Conrad Eckert adjourned the meeting at 1:30 p.m.